



# Town of Westford Massachusetts

## Town Manager's Newsletter

August 2018



**Jodi Ross,**  
Town  
Manager

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[www.westfordma.gov/tm](http://www.westfordma.gov/tm)  
978-692-5500

### Important:

Please sign up to  
receive updates on the  
latest road construction  
in town.

[Subscribe to  
Notifications](#)



**Farmers Market Meeting**  
**Monday, August 20**  
**6:30 pm**  
**Recreation Department**  
**22 Town Farm Road**

**Electronics Recycling**  
**Saturday, Sept. 8**  
**9 am to 1 pm**  
**Highway Garage**  
**28 North Street**  
**See page 6**

**Special Town Meeting**  
**Monday, October 15**  
**7 pm - Abbot School**



Watch  
Meetings Online  
**westford**  
community access television

[www.westfordcat.org](http://www.westfordcat.org)

### Dear Westford residents,

I am pleased to announce we were awarded our 5<sup>th</sup> Green Communities Grant in the amount of \$250,000. This grant will be used to convert our street lights into LED lights. Many thanks to our Assistant Town Manager Eric Heideman, GIS Coordinator Chris Coutu, and Highway Superintendent Chip Barrett for their work on this effort.

Our Healthy Westford Committee is meeting with representatives of the Agricultural Commission on Monday, August 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm the Recreation Department at 22 Town Farm Road to begin planning for the return of the farmers market in 2019.

Residents are invited to participate in the process. Specifically, they are looking for interested residents who wish to be a part of gathering best practices from nearby farmers markets and local farms. Please send an email to Elizabeth Almeida at [ealmeida@westfordma.gov](mailto:ealmeida@westfordma.gov) if you wish to assist with this process.

The Board of Selectmen and the J.V. Fletcher Library Trustees met on July 24<sup>th</sup> to appoint Glen Secor as Library Trustee until our next Town Election. Glen was most recently a member of our Finance Committee. Thank you Glen for your willingness to serve.

An abutter to the VFW baseball and softball fields located at 52 W. Prescott Street requested the Selectmen and Recreation Commission revisit a policy to allow the consumption of alcohol on town property after games, and also the hours when lights are turned off and the parking lot is emptied. The board voted an interim policy until the Recreation Commission returns with a recommendation. The new interim policy is as follows: Sunday – Thursday lights out by 10pm with the parking lot empty by 10:30pm, Friday lights out by 11pm with the parking lot empty by 11:30pm.

The Board of Selectmen heard an update from the FY19 Tax Classification Research Group who recommended the board not adopt a split tax rate but continue a single tax rate for residents and businesses. The board concurred and did not support a change at this time. The Selectmen will revisit this decision in 5 years and will discuss the small business exemption in the fall. The committee requested to be disbanded at the next selectman's meeting.

The Selectmen discussed the potential acquisition of the Franco American Club property located at 55 West Prescott Street. There were no departments that expressed interest in the building or location. The board directed the town manager to obtain an appraisal on the property.



(Continued on next page)

[WWW.WESTFORDMA.GOV](http://WWW.WESTFORDMA.GOV)

In other business the Selectmen accepted a 1.99 acre parcel of land ("Parcel A"), located within the Meadowbrook Estates Subdivision off Forge Village Road by approving the Quitclaim Deed from Birch Hollow, LLC to the Town of Westford, by and through the Conservation Commission, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 40 s. 8c.

The Board of Selectmen and I offer our sincerest gratitude to the Westford Charitable Foundation, Inc. for their \$5,000 donation for the purposes of assisting the Health Department with funding for our elderly dental program and our shingles vaccine program

The board and I recognized and thanked Daniel Provost for serving on the Board of Cemetery Commissioners for over 18 years. We also thanked Alice Ferro who served as Westford's Town Accountant for almost 17 years. She played a significant role in helping us maintain our AAA Standard and Poor's bond rating. We also thanked Greg Johnson, Project/Procurement Specialist in the town manager's office, who assisted our town for over 2 years, and recently accepted a new position as Town Administrator for the town of Maynard.

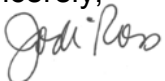
There are several openings on our local boards and committees, including: Affordable Housing Committee, Agricultural Commission, Community Center/Mill Works/Recreation Department Task Force, Cultural Council, Dog Park Task Force, Economic Development Committee, Finance Committee, Healthy Westford Committee, Historical Commission, Parkerville Schoolhouse Committee, Parks Grounds and Recreation Commission, Pedestrian Safety Committee, Westford Scholarship and Grant Committee, Board of Appeals, and others. I urge you to peruse our website for information about the work of these committees; and if you have interest, please complete a Citizen's Activity form at this link: [Citizen Activity Form](#) or stop by and fill out a form in the Town Manager's office.

Would you like more detailed information on Board of Selectmen meetings? Click the following links to access: [Board of Selectmen Documents](#) & [Board of Selectmen Meeting Videos](#).

Please mark your calendars for our Special Town Meeting to be held on Monday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm in the Abbot Elementary School gymnasium.

Enjoy these very special last days of summer!

Sincerely,



Jodi Ross  
Town Manager

*Westford's new water tank under construction - with the steel tank portion being assembled.*



## **July at the J.V. Fletcher Library**

**Our programs are generously funded by the Friends of the J.V. Fletcher Library, Inc.**

**New! J. V. Fletcher Nonfiction Book Club: Tues., Sept. 4 at 7p.m.** Is truth stranger than fiction? Is it more entertaining? Find out in the NEW Adult Nonfiction Book Club. We will meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Mary Atwood Room. Exact days and the reading list can be found on our website and at the Information Desk. Join us on Sept. 4 to discuss "American Fire: Love, Arson, and Life in a Vanishing Land", by Monica Hess. **Copies of the current selection are available at the Main Desk.** No registration required.

**Cookbook Club: Thurs., Aug. 16 at 7 p.m.** The Cookbook Club is dedicated to exploring cookbooks and sampling new recipes. We meet on the third Thursday of the month. Copies of this month's choice, "The Steamy Kitchen Cookbook: 101 Asian Recipes", by Jaden Hair, are available for check out at the Main Desk. If you would like to bring a dish from the cookbook (not required to participate), please contact Sarah Regan in the Information Services Department at 978-399-2309. No registration required.

**Unraveling America's Musical Roots with Craig Harris: Thurs., Aug. 23 at 7p.m.** Enjoy this multimedia, participatory program with musician and author Craig Harris. Combining archival audio/film, well-researched storytelling, and collective music-making, this program runs the gamut from old-time Appalachian fiddlers and bluegrass banjo players to Americana experimenters and beyond. Register through our Meeting Room calendar or call the Information Services Department at 978-399-2304. Open to all ages.

**College Financial Aid Workshop: Thurs., Sep. 6 at 6:30 p.m.** If you don't know the rules, you can't win the game. Financial coach T. Jack Wang will go over common questions such as how to save for college, options for paying, how to get more aid, and what factors are truly important. We'll also be discussing how to avoid the unintentional mistakes that ruin your chances for aid. **FREE!** Register through our Meeting Room calendar or call the Information Services Department at 978-399-2304.

**Gaiam Workout Videos on Overdrive :** The Overdrive collection now offers a simultaneous-use collection of 25 workout videos from Gaiam, Inc. These videos teach skills such as yoga, pilates, and tai chi, and also include kid-friendly titles. Simultaneous use means all titles are always available – no holds, no wait! Overdrive also includes e-books, audiobooks, videos, and digital magazines. If you would like to learn more about Overdrive please visit our website or contact the Information Services Department at 978-399-2304.

**Link to Literacy:** Link to Literacy is a non-profit, volunteer run organization devoted to enabling adults who have joined us from other cultures to read, write, and speak American English more effectively. Training and materials are provided to tutors. Tutors work with their students at the Library. To pick up a tutor or student application or for more information, stop by or contact the Information Services department at 978-399-2304. Currently, there are openings for additional students.



## Health Department



## Summertime Burn Safety

Summer is the time to enjoy vacations, camping, and picnics; however, summertime also brings fires and burn injuries due to fireworks and outdoor cooking.

- Wear short sleeves or roll them up when cooking on the grill.
- Use long-handled barbecue tools.
- Keep a 3-foot safe zone around grills, fire pits and campfires.
- Attend public fireworks displays; this leaves the lighting to the professionals.

### First aid for burns:

- Place the burn in cool water for three to five minutes.
- Cover the burn with a clean, dry cloth.
- See your doctor if the burn is larger than your palm.

For more information and free resources, visit [www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov).



# FEMA

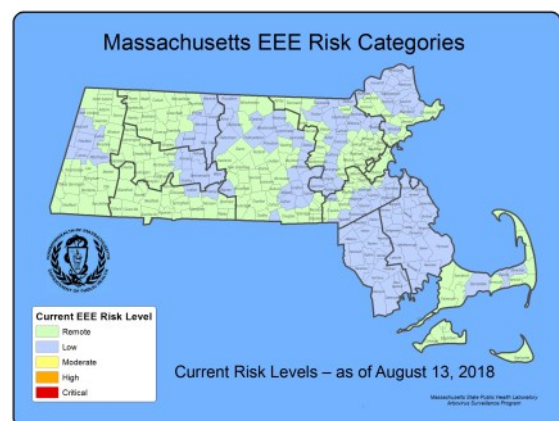
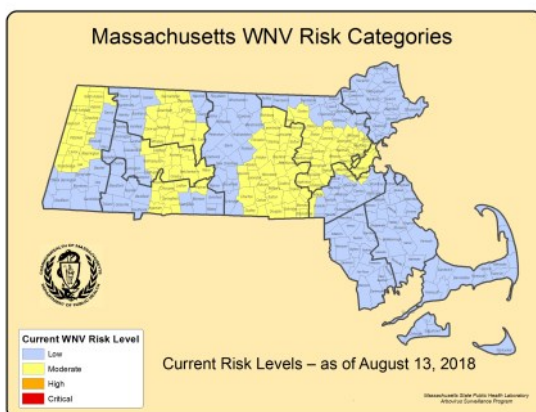
## Health Department

Every summer and well into fall, we face an increased risk of two different viruses that are spread through bites by infected mosquitoes — West Nile virus (WNV) and eastern equine encephalitis (EEE). These mosquito-borne illnesses can cause serious health problems to both humans and some animals such as horses. Mosquitos generally are out at night, in the evening, and in shady areas. Below are some recommended steps to help reduce your exposure to mosquitos.

- Use bug sprays that contain DEET, permethrin, IR3535 or picaridin (KBR 3023) to provide protection against mosquitoes. In addition, oil of lemon eucalyptus has been found to provide as much protection as low concentrations of DEET.
- Take special care to cover up the arms and legs of children playing outdoors. When you take a baby outdoors, cover the baby's carriage or playpen with mosquito netting.
- Consider rescheduling outdoor activities that take place during evening or early morning hours. That's prime time for mosquito bites.
- Fix any holes in your screens and make sure they are tightly attached to all your doors and windows.
- Remove sources of standing water around your home. Mosquitoes will begin to breed in any puddle or standing water that lasts for more than four days. Check gutters, ceramic pots, trash cans, recycling containers, old tires, wading pools, bird baths, etc



The good news is that you can avoid mosquito bites and "mosquito-proof" your home today. Additionally, horse owners may be able to vaccinate against EEE and WNV, but make sure you contact your veterinarian. For more information you can contact the Westford Health Department at 978-692-5509. For a list of Cities and Towns where positive samples have been found, you can go to <http://www.mosquitoresults.com> . This list is updated on a weekly.



## Recycling Commission

### Electronics & More Collection

Saturday, September 8, 2018 from 9 am – 1 pm  
Westford Highway Garage, 28 North Street

The Westford Recycling Commission hosts two Electronics Recycling events each year in Westford, one in the spring and one in the fall. Westford utilizes the services of Northeast Materials Handling of Ayer, MA.

This is a fee-based collection OPEN TO ALL. **CASH OR CHECK ONLY**. Checks should be made out to **Northeast Materials Handling**. The Town of Westford receives no proceeds from this event.

#### **EVENT PRICING:**

The following are accepted **FREE OF CHARGE**:

- Appliances: Small, anything that plugs into an electrical socket (irons, hair dryers, toasters, electric toothbrushes, hand mixers, blenders – no glass, etc.)
- Refrigerators, washers, dryers, Air Conditioners / Dehumidifiers, Microwave Ovens, etc.
- Cell Phones and Telephones (Home & Office)
- Chargers, Batteries (Lithium and Rechargeable **ONLY**)
- Computers and towers (CPUs), Laptops, keyboards
- Flat Screen Computer Monitors – if recycled **WITH** a computer
- Fire extinguishers (empty)
- Propane tanks (empty)
- Grills
- Smoke/Carbon Monoxide detectors
- Game Consoles
- Home Electronics & Related Appliances (DVD, DVR, Stereos, etc.)
- Light Fixtures
- Printers, Copiers and fax machines
- Ink and Toner Cartridges
- Radios and Scanners
- Printed circuit boards
- Network equipment, modems, servers, switches and routers
- Wire, filing cabinets, metal desks
- Bicycles
- Battery operated tools and Power Tools
- Snow Blowers, Lawn Mowers -must be emptied of gas and oil

**No plastic toys, glass, or propane tanks.**

#### **ITEMS ACCEPTED WITH FEES:**

- Children's car seats - \$15
- All TVs (regardless of size) - \$30
- CRT Computer Monitors - \$15
- Flat screen monitors **WITHOUT** a computer- \$15
- Speakers \$10 (House Speakers with large wood or plastic housing)
- Vacuums \$10
- Ink and toner cartridges - \$0.25 / lb

**Any item not explicitly stated on this page is up to the discretion of Northeast Materials Handling.**



## Recycling Commission (continued)

### An Alert from the Westford Recycling Commission

Plastic bags of any kind are NOT acceptable in recycling bins and toters.

Any and all recycling taken in plastic bags is discarded as trash. Contamination is costly to the town and the hauler.

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### Empty. Clean. Dry. *The new way to recycle.*

Be sure your recyclables are empty, clean, and dry before you toss them in the recycling container.

**EMPTY** Make sure there is no food or product residue.

**CLEAN** Empty recyclable containers should be rinsed. If you cannot get a container completely clean, it is best to put it into the trash.

**DRY** Let containers dry before placing in your recycling bin or toter so that the paper and cardboard does not get wet. Wet or soiled paper and cardboard cannot be recycled.

By practicing **Empty. Clean. Dry.** with our families, we can ensure the recycling materials leaving our homes will be recycled.

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### 2018 MINI Household Hazardous Waste Days in Lowell

Saturdays September 8, and November 17 are MINI Household Hazardous Waste Days in Lowell in 2018. Open to non-residents who pre-register. Required registration opens a month before the event. Check online for dates, acceptable items, and fees (cash only). Note that non-residents will have additional costs for some items. <https://www.lowellma.gov/1073/miniHHWD>.

**Westford thanks you for  
recycling, reducing,  
repurposing, and reusing!**





## Happenings abound at the Cameron



### Cameron Thrift Shop 50% Off Sale

Trudy's Boutique, the non-profit thrift shop at Westford's Cameron Senior Center, is holding a week-long ½ price sale Monday-Friday, Aug. 20-24, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., to clear summer stock and make room for incoming fall merchandise. The shop is open to the public and all ages are welcome. All clothing, household goods and décor – everything except jewelry and specialty items – will be 50% off. During the sale, dresses, shirts, blouses, skirts, pants, jeans, shorts, pajamas & shoes will each be less than \$2. Trudy's Boutique is staffed entirely by volunteers. All proceeds raised support the Cameron's programs, activities and outreach services for elders in the community. For more information, call 978-692-5523.

### Help put Westford on the Map as Dementia Friendly- All invited

Tuesday, August 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 Location: Bridges by EPOCH- 108 Littleton Rd.

With our partnership with **Senior Helpers, Bridges by Epoch, Westford Health Department** and many other Town dept., businesses, residents, religious organizations, to look at ways to better support our neighbors who live with dementia. We are currently in the process of planning a website to provide information about this initiative and other available resource information. For further information please feel free to call Alison at 978-399-2325.

### Homestead Act Seminar

Tuesday, Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>, 6:00p.m.

Recording a declaration of Homestead at the registry of Deeds protects your home from creditors. Register of Deeds, Richard p. Howe, Jr., will explain how this valuable law works and will have blank Homestead forms for anyone who wishes to file on (recording fee is \$35, cash or check) Attorney Howe will also discuss and answer questions about common r/e issues such as trusts, joint ownership, mortgages and probates. To register please call 978-692-5523.

### Fall Fashion Show 'n Lunch

Thursday, Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>, at 12:30p.m. Come for lunch, watch elegant models strut their stuff, and get a front row view of new fall fashions, jewelry, and accessories- all from TRUDY's Boutique! You won't want to miss this event!! Lunch...raffles...more! Cost \$5. **RSVP** to 978-692-5523 by Monday, Sept. 10<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers need are (models, dressers/assistants, runway set-up and more)

### Community Teamwork Series: ALL ages invited

Come learn about Community Teamwork (also referred to as CTI), a non-profit community action agency which provides a wide range of programs, social services and advocacy to assist low income residents of Westford and surrounding towns. Representatives of their Resource Center, financial literacy and housing programs will be here at the Cameron to meet with interested residents monthly on the following dates: September 20<sup>th</sup>, 9:30-11:30AM, October 17<sup>th</sup>, 5:30-7:30PM, and November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9-11AM

(Continued on next page)



## Cameron Happenings Continued...

### Technology Help with Vamsi Vesta

Tuesday, Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 by appointment

We are glad to have Vamsi a Westford Academy student returning this fall to help center participants one on one with their needed technology (phones, I-pads, laptops, program software, email, etc.) challenges. So, no more technology angst just schedules an appt. with Vamsi on Tuesday starting at 3:30 by calling 978-692-5523.

### Parents and Grandparents...

Wednesday September 19<sup>th</sup> at 10AM- Cameron library

Do you have adult children or grandchildren of any age living with you? Are you struggling with supporting them and maintaining your own lifestyle? You are not alone! Many of our clients are experiencing this challenge. Come meet others who share your concerns, get helpful ideas, and support. If there is enough interest, Annette and Alison will start a monthly support group. RSVP to Alison at 978-399-2325.

### Fuel Assistance (LIHEAP) Applications

Fall means that it is time to think about winter heating assistance. If you are a previous LIHEAP recipient and receive a renewal application in the mail from CTI, complete it as soon as possible.

**Gross annual income limits** for this season are 35,510 for 1 person and 46,437 for 2-person households, up to \$68,289 for 4-person households. If you have struggled with heating costs and would like to apply for fuel assistance this year, Call Alison at 978-399-2325 or Annette at 978-399-2326 for an appointment. We can also help with renewal applications and questions about the program.

### Home Sharing

We hear from many seniors who are struggling to afford their property taxes, mortgage payments, and household expenses. We also hear from seniors who are looking for a rental situation they can afford in Westford. Perhaps a homeowner wants to remain in their home and can't afford the help they need to do so. Would a roommate/helper who performs household tasks in exchange for a room solve two problems? Perhaps two roommates sharing the costs of household bills would help with financial issues and social needs. We have a new space on the welcome area bulletin board for interested parties to post ads to each other. COA/Senior Center staff will not be endorsing any of these housing options or doing background checks on individuals, so participants should do thorough reviews/reference checks of home options and potential roommates. If you need more information about home sharing or housing options, see Alison or Annette.

To view the complete Council On Aging  
Newsletter please visit our website:

[www.westfordma.gov/coa](http://www.westfordma.gov/coa) and click on [Newsletters](#).



Westford Senior Center